

REMARKS

Claims are pending in this application with claims 1, 19, 26 and 29 being independent. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is kindly requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 19-25. Also in the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 7-18 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Although applicants acknowledge that these claims contains allowable subject matter, the independent claims already contain features therein which define over the prior art of record.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §103

Claims 1-6, and 26-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over De Cambray-Mathan (US 2003/0190917) in view of Subramanian et al (USP 5,907,810) (hereinafter Subramanian). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that De Cambray-Mathan fails to teach or suggest a method of determining cells for deletion in a network design, comprising at least: ordering cells of the group by rank based on the evaluation; and/or deleting the highest ranked cell (admitted in the Office Action), in combination with the other functions as recited in claim 1, and as somewhat similarly recited in claims 26 and 29.

De Cambray-Mathan only teaches the highlighting of ten areas where the traffic is the highest, or areas with low traffic. Additionally, in De Cambray-Mathan, one area is not necessarily equal to one cell. As illustrated in paragraph 0078, “such a region can cover a certain number of network cells.” Even if one area was attributed to a single cell, ten areas with the highest traffic are highlighted in De Cambray-Mathan, but with no ranking mechanism or criteria is taught therein. Thus, De Cambray-Mathan fails to teach ordering cells of the group by rank.

Subramanian fails to cure the deficiencies noted above in De Cambray-Mathan. Subramanian is limited in its teachings and does not suggest the addressing of a cell, by rank or deleting the highest ranked cell, as recited in claim 1 and somewhat similarly in claims 26 and 29. Claims 2-18, 27-28 and 30-33 should be indicated as allowable, as these claims depend on allowable independent claims 1, 26 and 29. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of each of claims 1-18 and 26-33 are kindly requested.

CONCLUSION

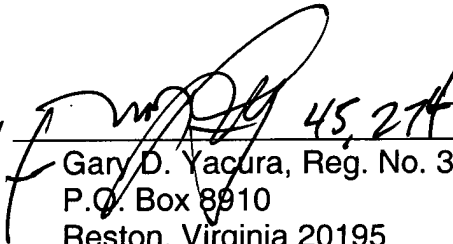
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-18 and 26-33 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By  45,274

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